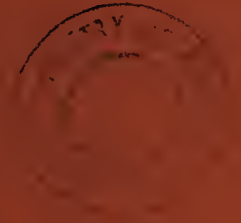


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ST. NEOTS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



THE
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Surveyor & Chief Sanitary
Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1955

ST. NEOTS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

by

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the District.

There were 16 fewer births in 1955 than in the previous year and as the population of the district remained practically the same, the birth rate shows a decrease to a level a little below the national average.

There was exactly the same number of deaths in 1955 as there were in the previous year. The Death Rate remains approximately equivalent to the figure for England and Wales as a whole.

Heart disease and cancer, in equal proportions, accounted for the greatest number of deaths, followed by deaths due to "strokes". Although infectious disease ran at a higher level than last year, due primarily to an increase in the number of cases of measles and whooping cough, it cannot be said that any serious epidemic occurred.

Diphtheria was again conspicuous by its absence—the last notified case having occurred in 1942. This happy state of affairs should not lead to complacency on the part of the public and every effort should be made to ensure that the immunity of the children in the district is maintained at the highest possible level. During the year 172 children were immunised against diphtheria and more would probably have been done had it not been for the presence of poliomyelitis in other parts of the county.

Paxton Park Maternity Home ceased to operate as such in September, 1955, and from that date Maternity facilities were provided at Primrose Lane, in Huntingdon, as a temporary measure until a Maternity Wing can be added to the County Hospital.

A Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme for the whole of the district is well under way and should be completed early in 1956. This comprehensive scheme will be a great boon to the amenities of the town, and will do away with much of the present insanitary system.

The Huntingdon Road housing scheme, comprising nearly 300 houses, is now complete and another scheme for 60 houses is now in the process of development in the Eynesbury area. The need for rehousing, however, is still considerable in the district.

In conclusion, I should like to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Council for the kindness and consideration they have shown to me, and also to all their officers for their unfailing help and co-operation.

Your obedient servant,

J. CALDWELL.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health,

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector :

S. D. COX, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E., A.A.B.S.S.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

J. L. WILLIAMS, M.B.E., M.R.S.I. (resigned 28th February, 1955).

L. J. FOSTER, M.R.S.I., A.A.B.S.S. (commenced 8th March, 1955).

Waterworks Engineer :

W. W. MAWBY.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area : 1,391 acres. St. Neots 996, Eynesbury 395.

ESTIMATED POPULATION : Mid 1934, 5,140 ; Mid 1955, 5,160.

ST. NEOTS :

Private Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	676
Shops, etc., with private houses attached	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73

EYNESBURY :

Private Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	319
Shops, etc., with private houses attached	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

RATEABLE VALUE :

As at 31st December, 1955 : £31,279.

Product of a Penny Rate : £125.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS

	M.	F.	Total		
				Birth-rate per 1,000 esti-	
Legitimate	.. 26	42	68	mated population	.. 13.9
Illegitimate	.. 2	2	4	(Ditto for England and	
	—	—	—	Wales)	.. 15.0
Total	.. 28	44	72		

STILLBIRTHS

Legitimate	.. 1	1	2	Rate per 1,000 estimated	
Illegitimate	.. .	.	-	population	.. 27.0
	—	—	—	(Ditto for England and	
Total	.. 1	1	2	Wales)	.. 23.1

DEATHS (ALL AGES)

27	35	62	Death-rate per 1,000 esti-	
			mated population	.. 12.0
			(Ditto for England and	
			Wales)	.. 11.7

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	... -	2	2
Illegitimate	.. -	-	-

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	...	...	27.8
(Ditto for England and Wales)	...	...	...	24.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...			29.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	—		—

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar-General's List).

List No.	Cause	Male	Female
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	.. —	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	.. —	1
3	Syphilitic	.. —	—
4	Diphtheria	.. —	—
5	Whooping cough	.. —	—
6	Meningococcal infections	.. —	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	.. —	—
8	Measles	.. —	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	.. —	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	.. —	1
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.. 1	1
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	.. —	—
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	.. —	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	.. 5	2
15	Leukaemia, aleukeamia	.. —	—
16	Diabetes	.. —	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	.. 3	5
18	Coronary disease, angina	.. 3	3
19	Hypertension with heart disease	.. —	—
20	Other heart disease	.. 2	3
21	Other circulatory diseases	.. —	—
22	Influenza	.. 4	—
23	Pneumonia	.. —	1
24	Bronchitis	.. 2	—
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	.. —	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	.. 1	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	.. —	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	.. —	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	.. 2	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	.. —	—
31	Congenital malformations	.. —	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.. 3	9
33	Motor vehicle accidents	.. 1	—
34	All other accidents	.. —	3
35	Suicide	.. —	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	.. —	—
Total all causes		.. 27	35

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The following Laboratory facilities have been available to this authority and to General Practitioners in the area :

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.
Tel. Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst (S. Greenburgh, Ph D., B.Sc., F.I.C.), Tennison Rd.,
Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 2097.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

- (1) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service, operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service, have been available on doctor's orders. Tel. Huntingdon 348.

(c) Home Nursing.

Two Nurse-Midwives, living in St. Neots (Tel. St. Neots 215), employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council, carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity Cases in the district.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

- (i) The following Health Services, provided by the Huntingdon County Council, were available :

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	1st Thursday in month (M.O. present). Every other Thursday, School Nurse only. 10—11.30 a.m. Every Monday, 9.30—10.30 a.m.	Liberal Club, St. Neots. Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
Infant Welfare	Children (0—5 years)	Every Wednesday and Thursday, 2—4 p.m.	Liberal Club, St. Neots.
Dental	Pre-School and School- children. Pre-Natal and Nursing Mothers.	1st Thursday in month, 10 a.m.—12 noon. 2—3.30 p.m.	Red Cross Room, High St., St. Neots.

- (ii) The following Health Services are the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, and are administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council :

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-School and School- children.	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appoint- ment except in emergency). 10 a.m.— 12 noon, 2-4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

Orthopaedic	Pre-School- and School- children.	2nd and 4th Tues- days in month (Sur- geons by appoint- ment). 10 a.m.—12 noon.	Old Grammar School Huntingdon.
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(iii) The following Health Services are now provided by the Regional Hospital Board:

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages.	Every Thursday, 10 a.m.—12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Mondays, 3—7 p.m. Wednesdays, 4—6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
		Males:	
		Mondays, 5.30 p.m.	Out-
		Wednesdays, 5.30 p.m.	Patient
		Females:	Department,
		Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m.	Memorial
		Thursdays, 5.30 p.m.	Hospital, Cambridge.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Fever.—As from September, cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment were admitted to the Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

General Hospital Services are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases.—As from Sept. 25th, maternity facilities were provided at Primrose Lane Hospital, Huntingdon.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Total cases Notified.
Scarlet Fever	.. 2
Whooping Cough	.. 32
Diphtheria	.. —
Measles	.. 83
Acute Pneumonia	.. 7
Puerperal Pyrexia	.. —
Typhoid Fever	.. —
Erysipelas	.. —
Acute Poliomyelitis	.. —
Infective Hepatitis	.. 1
	—
	125

TUBERCULOSIS.

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1955 : 23

Pulmonary : 13

Non-Pulmonary : 10

Age Periods

	New Cases Diagnosed.				New Cases—Transfers			
	Respiratory.		Non-Res.		Respiratory.		Non-Res	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
10								
15	1							
20		1						
25		1						
35								
45								
55								
65 & Upwards		1						
Totals ..	1	3						

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows:

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary Immunisation	25	37	1	1	1	21	2	88
Secondary or Reinforcing injection	—	—	—	—	8	44	32	84

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the District of children up to the age of 15 years.

Age at 31.12.55 i.e. Born in year	Under 1 1955	1—4 1954-1951	5—9 1950-1946	10—14 1945-1941	Total Under 15
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1951-1955	3	200	290	173	666
B. 1950 or earlier	—	—	114	210	324

**REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR
1955**

To the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my third Annual Report recording the work of your Inspectors for the year 1955.

The end of the year has seen a number of changes, and it is gratifying to have working the new sewage treatment works and new main pumping station, although the sewage from Eynesbury has yet to be brought into the new system. It is hoped that this will be achieved early in the New Year.

In submitting the report, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and Committees for their support, yourself and other officers and staff of the Urban Council for their help and work.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

S. D. COX,

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary
Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR, ETC.

Visits and Inspections Made 1955

Public Health Act

Houses inspected for nuisances, including revisits	..	118
Verminous premises	..	2
Infectious diseases—inquiries and disinfection	..	2
Privies, ashpits, earth closets, etc.	..	16
Drainage inspections—sewers included	..	170
Tents, vans, sheds and moveable dwellings	..	21
Smoke abatement	..	13
Streams and watercourses	..	6
Vacant land	..	2
Refuse tip—control and operation	..	117
Refuse collection—complaints, organisation, etc	..	13
Council house maintenance—repairs, surveys, etc.	..	925
Byelaws—inspection of new work	..	356
Keeping animals	..	3
Offensive trades	..	1
Water supplies	..	9
Public conveniences	..	35

Housing Acts

Houses inspected—slum clearance, etc.	..	226
Housing applications (for Council houses)	..	9
Small Dwellings Acquisitions Acts—valuations, etc.	..	15
Improvement Grants	..	5

Factory Act

Factories and work places inspected	..	25
Outworkers' premises visited	..	6
Fire escape inspections—including revisits	..	8

Shops Act

Shops inspected	..	35
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Food and Drugs Act, Etc.

Bakehouses inspected—including revisits	..	9
General food shops—including revisits	..	30
Fried fish shops—including revisits	..	16
Food preparing premises	..	9
Slaughterhouses (meat inspection, etc.)	..	652
Public houses	..	9
Markets	..	86
Food inspection visits (other than meat inspection)	..	62
Restaurants and cafes	..	24
Ice cream premises	..	16
Dairies	..	15
Butchers	..	22
Hotels	..	12

Miscellaneous

Rats and mice infestations (not including Rodent Operative)	..	22
Interviews generally	..	1284
Miscellaneous visits	..	93
Visits under Petroleum Acts	..	6
New Council houses in course of erection	..	392
District and classified roads—scavenging, etc.	..	71

Total visits and inspections made	..	5467
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Notices served and complied with 1955

Type of Notice	Served	Complied with	Outstanding	
			End of 1954	End of 1955
Public Health Acts informal	18	16	—	2
Public Health Acts formal	1	—	—	1
Housing Acts informal	2	5	3	—
Housing Acts formal	—	—	—	—
Factories Acts informal	3	3	—	—
Food and Drugs Acts informal	10	9	—	1
Milk and Dairies Regs. informal	1	1	—	—
Petroleum Acts informal	—	—	—	—
Pet Animals Act informal	—	—	—	—

LICENCES ISSUED 1955

Slaughter of Animals Acts	
Slaughterman's Licences	.. 12
Public Health Acts	
Marine store dealers	.. 3
Knackers Yard	.. 1
Slaughterhouses Act, 1954	
Slaughterhouse licences	.. 3
Petroleum Acts	
Petroleum licences	.. 23
Carbide of Calcium licences	.. 1
Cellulose licences	.. 2
Rubber solution licences	.. 3
Milk (Special Designation) Regulations	
Dealers' licences	.. 4
Supplementary licences	.. 2
Game Act, 1931	
Game Dealers' licences	.. 5
Food and Drugs Acts Registrations	
Storage and sale of ice cream	.. 15
Manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream	.. 1
Pressed, potted preserved meats, etc.	.. 4

Informal Samples of Food, etc.

The following ice cream samples were taken during the year and submitted for examination. The results were :

Grade 1	..	..	..	..	8
Grade 2	..	..	..	..	3
Grade 3	..	..	..	..	1
Grade 4	..	..	..	..	1
					—
					13
					—

The one sample falling into Grade 3 was taken mid-year and was a pre-packed ice-cream manufactured by a large national firm. Subsequent samples have proved satisfactory.

The sample falling into Grade 4 was taken during December, being ice-cream from an open canister in the storage refrigerator. An inspection of the methods employed has revealed possible sources of contamination and which it is hoped will be discovered early next year.

Milk

The following milk samples were taken during the year from establishments in the town and submitted for examination. The results were as follows :—

Samples taken	..	11
Samples satisfactory	..	11
Samples not satisfactory	..	—

All the samples taken were of heat treated milk.

Water

Samples of water throughout the year were taken from premises not connected to the mains.

Nine such samples were taken from pumps and wells, 6 of which proved unsatisfactory, showing evidence of pollution.

The policy following such unsatisfactory samples is to endeavour to have owners put in a supply from the mains.

Meat and Food Inspection

Carcases inspected during 1955 at the three licenced slaughterhouses are as follows :—

	Cattle inc. cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
Total number slaughtered and inspected	671	8	4152	12,537	17,368

Condemnations

Diseases other than tuberculosis

	Cattle inc. cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
1. Whole carcasses	7	1	4	39
2. Part carcasses or organs	109	2	53	492
3. Percentage affected	17.2	37.4	1.3	4.2

Affected with tuberculosis

1. Whole carcasses	5	—	—	5
2. Part carcasses or organs	20	—	—	239
3. Percentage affected	3.7	—	—	1.9

Other Foods Condemned

5 tins pork luncheon meat
 8 tins corned beef
 18 lbs. jellied veal
 130 lbs. hindquarter beef
 56½ lbs. beef
 10 lbs. gammon
 1 tin ham
 4 lbs. shoulder pork
 58 tins fruit (various)
 18 tins vegetables (various)
 1 tin sardines
 4 tins evaporated milk
 4 jars jam
 1 tin cream
 6 lbs. cheese
 7 lbs. butter

Food Premises

No.

General Stores	..	31
Fishmongers	..	2
Dairies	..	4
Butchers	..	10
Bakeries	..	8
Hotels	..	6
Cafes	..	6
Fish Friers	..	3
Mobile Fish Frier Establishment		1
Public Houses	..	31
Greengrocers	..	8
Confectionery	..	17
Ice cream premises	..	16
Pie Manufacturers	..	2
Maltsters	..	1

Housing Acts, etc.

Improvement grants		
Applications	..	3
Grants made	..	2
Small Dwellings loan		
Applications	..	10
Loans made	..	10

Factories in Register

With mechanical power	..	57
Without mechanical power	..	12
Fire escape certificates issued in 1955	..	1

Market Stalls

During the year 2,663 stalls were occupied, this figure being below the average for the past nine years (2,836).

I give as a comparison the total number of stalls occupied over the past nine years :—

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
<u>2175</u>	<u>2649</u>	<u>2906</u>	<u>2934</u>	<u>3083</u>	<u>2987</u>	<u>3304</u>	<u>2828</u>	<u>2663</u>

New Buildings

Over the past year 80 plans were deposited for new work, and none were rejected under the Building Byelaws. This figure shows an increase of 40% over the number deposited during 1954.

Supervision and inspection involved 356 visits.

During the year 9 private houses were completed, 7 under construction at the beginning of the year and 5 under construction at the end of the year.

New Council Houses

The following indicates progress through the year :—

Under construction at the end of 1954 :

2 bedroomed houses 16

3 bedroomed houses 20

Completed during 1955 :

2 bedroomed houses 14

3 bedroomed houses 10

Under construction at the end of 1955 :

2 bedroomed houses 14

3 bedroomed houses 16

Sewerage

Again during the year excellent progress was made with the construction of the new treatment works, main pumping station, sewers and rising main. The main Contractors had finished ahead of schedule and, as anticipated, a delay was experienced with the delivery of pumping machinery and automatic switch gear for the main pumping station.

However, by November the new pumps were installed together with the motors, and a temporary electricity supply and automatic control apparatus fitted.

The river outfalls on the St. Neots side of Hen Brook were brought into the new sewers and pumping to the treatment works commenced intermittently.

Readings, however, could not be taken because the recording apparatus was still being fitted at the close of the year.

Early next year should see all river outfalls brought into the system and all dry weather flow sewage for both St. Neots and Eynesbury being pumped to the treatment works.

Minor troubles throughout the year were again experienced with the single pump and motor serving Potton Road area and investigations towards the end of the year were being made to ascertain the costs and possibility of converting the installation to include ejectors and compressors in duplicate.

During the year a scheme was being prepared for new sewers to serve Russell Street, Bedford Street, Priory Road, West Street, part of New Street and area. 1956, if Ministry approval can be obtained, should see the scheme complete.

Night Soil

Following the Council's intimation that the collection of night soil would cease in the middle of 1956, a number of properties so served, towards the latter part of the year, were converted to the water carriage system.

Some 35 properties were converted, and the large number of 278 still remain on the old service.

Refuse

The refuse tip at Howitt's Lane continued to function satisfactorily, although, as mentioned in my report for last year, some difficulty was experienced with surface water drainage.

However, the main ditch serving the field was cleaned and opened up and an old land drain discovered at another point. After this operation surface water ceased to be a problem.

Pulverised fuel ash from the local Electricity Power Station was used to fill a pond to water line when tipping was continued without the usual associated nuisance of tipping in water.

House refuse collection continued satisfactorily.

Salvage

12 tons 12 cwts. of waste paper were despatched to the Mills during the year, after being collected and baled.

Having regard to the fact that the low price paid for such baled waste, and which does not cover the cost of collection and baling, the Council decided and imposed a collection charge on persons requiring the service.

Roads—Scavenging, etc.

Throughout the year regular sweeping, cleaning, snow clearing and gully cleansing was achieved on both District and Classified roads.

The Council gave consideration to mechanising certain operations and eventually dispensing with the two horses now kept. It was decided in the New Year to purchase a diesel tractor, rotating sweeper broom attachment, loading bucket, bulldozer blade, trailer and gang mower.

I have no doubt that these items will greatly facilitate the work of cutting verges, sweeping roads, levelling and covering the refuse tip and sludge removal from the sewage treatment works, all aspects of which are becoming more difficult to organise and maintain with the present establishment of employees and equipment.

Public Conveniences

Again this year the plans for the improvement of the South Street public conveniences were deferred, bearing in mind the Government policy of limiting capital expenditure.

Housing

A concentrated effort was made during the year to inspect and categorise for the preliminary or outline slum clearance report, houses in the District which ought to come under review.

As a result of these efforts, a report was prepared involving 276 houses and these were placed in five stages having regard to their condition, situation, arrangement, etc.

The report was adopted with minor amendments and forwarded to the Ministry as an indication of this Council's intentions.

Meat Inspection

Throughout the year the slaughterhouses, particularly the largest, demanded more and more time of the Inspector's being spent in meat inspection.

The rate of slaughtering has again risen sharply, an increase of 3.833 animals over last year's figure being killed and inspected. This is an increase of 28.3%, and in spite of this a 100% meat inspection service is being maintained, but which, as reported last year, involves overtime and week-end inspection.

As a matter of interest and comparison, I give below the number of animals killed and inspected for the past five years :—

1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
<u>6980</u>	<u>8543</u>	<u>9035</u>	<u>13535</u>	<u>17368</u>

Food Premises

No ice-cream registrations were made during the year, and food premises generally were subjected to a series of inspections. The result, I feel, was a general raising of standards and, therefore, worth while.

It was, however, found necessary in the case of one bakery to prepare for prosecution, but the items required were remedied in time, and thus obviated the need for Court action.

S. D. COX,

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

